

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 2, 10, 17, 22, 27 and 33. The Examiner referred to claim 33 on the last page of the Office Action but did not recite it in paragraph 4.

With respect to the priority applications, Applicants call the Examiner's attention to paragraph 8b which was submitted as page 4 of the four page transmittal letter. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of page 4 is enclosed herewith and it clearly recites the four Japanese priority applications. The priority documents have been filed in WIPO and, presumably, were transferred to the parent application Serial No. 09/581,696.


Claims 2 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over the Lindermann Patent and claims 17, 22 and 33 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a base claim but were indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter.

The rejection of claims 2 and 10 is not deemed to be pertinent in view of the present amendment. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 17 and, therefore, is deemed

to be allowable. Claim 17 has been cancelled. Claims 22 and 33 have been rewritten as new claims 37 and 38 and, therefore, claims 37 and 38 are deemed to be allowable. The only remaining claim is claim 27 which is dependent upon claim 2. Therefore, it is deemed that the present claims are allowable.

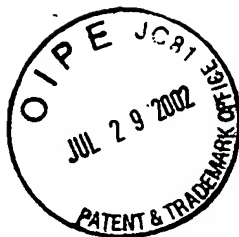
In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly point out Applicants' patentable contribution and, therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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*8b. Priority of Application Serial Nos.:

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Country</u>
10-305301	October 27, 1998	Japan
10-313337	November 4, 1998	Japan
10-352582	December 11, 1998	Japan
10-352675	December 11, 1998	Japan

are claimed under 35 USC 119.

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